



DATE DUE

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NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST

75¢

News in brief

Voting fairs are planned

The Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) will be hosting voter registration fairs in 57 counties across Michigan to help individuals register to vote.

Representatives from the League of Women Voters of Michigan, city, township, and county clerk offices will be at various locations to assist individuals attending the events. At some sites, an Automark machine will be available to individuals who would like hands-on practice casting a ballot.

Voting gives every Michigan resident a voice in the political system and provides the opportunity for an individual to participate in all levels of government. Residents who are unable to attend one of the scheduled voter registration fairs can register to vote at one of the DHS local offices during their regular operating hours.

For more information on dates, time and places of the Voter Registration Fair, visit www.michigan.gov.

Bill would eliminate responsibility fees

State Sen. Tupac Hunter (D-Inkster; Detroit), co sponsored a bill that would eliminate Driver Responsibility fees that are leveled against some drivers for violations incurred long after the actual incident.

Senate Bill 1509 was co-sponsored by State Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman (D-Detroit). If approved by the Legislature, the bill would eliminate the state driver responsibility fees for senior citizens and any person or family whose income is at 150 percent of the federal poverty level.

Driver responsibility fees can tack hundreds or thousands of dollars onto what a person owes when being issued a traffic ticket, often for several years following a violation. These fees, for certain offenses, were put into place about five years ago for serious traffic violations.

Hunter said he co-sponsored the bill because many individuals do not have the means to pay for these extra fees.

Drivers who break the speed limit need to pay their traffic tickets, but charging additional fees won't solve the problem that led to the driving ticket in the first place.

The law now assesses a \$100 fee on people who accumulate seven or more points on their driving record within a two-year period, and an extra \$50 for every point above seven points.

Other offenses, such as drunk driving, have attached fees in the thousands of dollars as part of the Driver Responsibility Program.

— News briefs are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.



Welcome to fall

The Romulus Pumpkin Festival entertained thousands of men, women and children who made it to the downtown area last weekend. The activity filled festival is the largest city-sponsored event to occur on an annual basis in Romulus. Courtney Dauer, above, shows off a perfectly-round pumpkin, while (top right) Nicole Pryloyla gets a makeover, and Amber Hackett (bottom right) plays a hand.



Dropout numbers challenge state

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The daunting problem of high school drop out levels, and their effect on individuals, employers, and the economic climate was debated last Thursday at the Wayne County Regional Education Association (RESA) offices.

The forum, entitled "Dropouts:

One is Too Many," was attended by parents, educators, superintendents, community leaders and law enforcers. It was sponsored by the Michigan Education Association, Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators, the Kent Intermediate School District, Michigan's Children, Michigan's Charter Schools, and Michigan's

Promise.

The purpose of the forum was to brainstorm new solutions aimed at keeping students in school until graduation, and to debate the problem in Wayne County, where half of school districts and two-thirds of public school academies have dropout rates above the state aver-

See Dropouts, page 3

See Vining, page 3

Police continue search for victim of hotel abduction

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Three weeks after a Romulus resident was abducted by a group of armed individuals at an area hotel, there is little information about the victim or his fate available to police.

Romulus Deputy Police Chief Michael St. Andre said investigators have not heard from 26-year-old Dorale LaShawn Doyle, who witnesses said was forced into a black 2008 Chrysler Town & Country minivan by several armed men outside the Ramada Inn Hotel in

Romulus Sept. 3.

"We have not heard from him at this point," said St. Andre. "Also, family members have not returned our calls. It's still under investigation, and that's about as far as I can go at this point."

Doyle's abduction took place outside the hotel, which is located at 31119 Flynn Dr., police said. A suspect identified as Monroe Jackson, and another man took Doyle out of the vehicle at gunpoint. Jackson and the accomplice forced Doyle into the black Town & Country minivan and proceeded to drive

away in an unknown direction, police said.

Police believe another suspect, Lashondra Jackson, and an additional armed man ordered a passenger traveling with Doyle out of the Grand Caravan and stole the vehicle.

Both vehicles left in an unknown direction from the hotel.

Though several leads have been phoned into the department, police are still waiting to hear from two persons of interest in the case, who have contacted officers looking into the matter.

"Two of the persons of interest called Det. (Dewayne) DeCaires, and we're hoping they come in for an interview," he said.

There are no warrants for arrest for the two persons of interest who contacted police, St. Andre said.

Currently, investigators are looking for the victim, two suspects, and two area residents described as persons of interest.

Doral Doyle is a 26-year-old black male who is 5-feet, 10-inches tall.

See Victim, page 3

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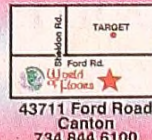
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Strawberry festival may return to Main Street

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Belleville National Strawberry Festival could return to Main Street next year.

Organizers and festival board of directors want to move the arts, crafts and juried vendors with some children's rides back to the street, but keep the carnival at Belleville High School for the 2009 event.

"The high school did not work. It was a more contained area I will agree with that, but it's important the event goes back on Main Street if it continues in Belleville," said Joan Bodnar, executive director of the festival. "It's an asset to Belleville and it brings over 200,000 people here."

"We want you (city councilmembers) to please re-look having it on Main Street," she added.

Festival officials said there was a decline in attendance this year. Expanding the festival area will give businesses in the area the ability to purchase booth space on Main Street at a reduced rate, as well as provide the festival the ability to monitor activities in the area, according to Bodnar.

"We worked extremely hard to make this successful," said Bill

Wolters, a chamber representative for the festival. "People put in an incredible amount of hours from all avenues to make it successful."

Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce members, big supporters of the event, said the festival should return back to Main Street because of funding that is used to support assets the city doesn't provide. Moving the festival this year, however, caused a reduction in revenue, which in turn affected operations and services the chamber provides, officials said.

Sharon Pokerwinski, secretary of the festival board, said it doesn't only affect that, but the churches, as well. Business owner Shawna Austin said it's also affecting area businesses. She's in support of bringing the event back to Main Street, she said.

"As a business owner, I feel it's important for it to come back downtown," she said.

In 2007, there were security issues and concerns with security at the Strawberry Festival, which prompted the move, so officials went to work and beefed up security, said Mark Burger, president elect for the board of directors for the chamber. He said with the proper security this

past festival of 2008 proved to be a successful festival without major incidents.

Councilman George Chedraue said there were many business owners who said they didn't want the event on Main Street because they felt fearful their store would be broken into.

"There's only one businessperson who said that," Bodnar responded.

"The chamber is looking to support additional security on Main Street," added Burger.

Business owner Mike Foley of Frosty Boy, said he has come to accept the Strawberry Festival.

"It's done a lot of good, it's one weekend and it's tradition. It's a very valuable asset," said Foley. "It's great to show the demeanor of business folks and people in the area. The event should be nurtured by all and I would encourage the city to look deeper into the budget for security."

Jane Vesche, owner of Main Street Flowers, asked why business owners have to pay for a booth in front of their stores.

"I want it empty, can I ask for that?" she said. "I pay taxes, I pay insurance; it's my business. I would



The Belleville National Strawberry Festival may return to downtown streets next year.

Group members take toy dog to exotic vacation locations

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

It's a travel schedule that would give a person a serious case of jet lag, let alone a stuffed dog.

But Pups the Traveling Dog – the stuffed black Labrador retriever that has a traveled to the ends of the Earth – has during the past three years taken second place in a boat race, walked the hills of Ireland, and beat the heat of Florida. He's seen more of the world than many people ever do.

A long journey

Pups' owner, Romulus native Paula Kidney, is a longtime aficionado of Labrador dogs. She spotted the stuffed dog – waiting for her and her husband, Gregg, at a store along the shores of Houghton Lake.

"There's a place up there called the Mountain Fruit and Nut Co., and they have things that you can't find in regular stores," she said. "I love Labradors, and I saw him, and decided to buy him right there."

It wasn't long before the idea to have Pups travel the world occurred to Kidney.

"I belong to a diet forum online," she said. "I got the idea to have him travel at that time, and since then, I've coordinated his travel."

Kidney sent the stuffed animal to a member of the on-line forum who is traveling. The traveler then photographs Pups next to popular landmarks, and sends him to the next traveler. Kidney coordinates all of the travel, but said all of the dog's traveling buddies are very interested in showing the stuffed toy all of the hotspots.

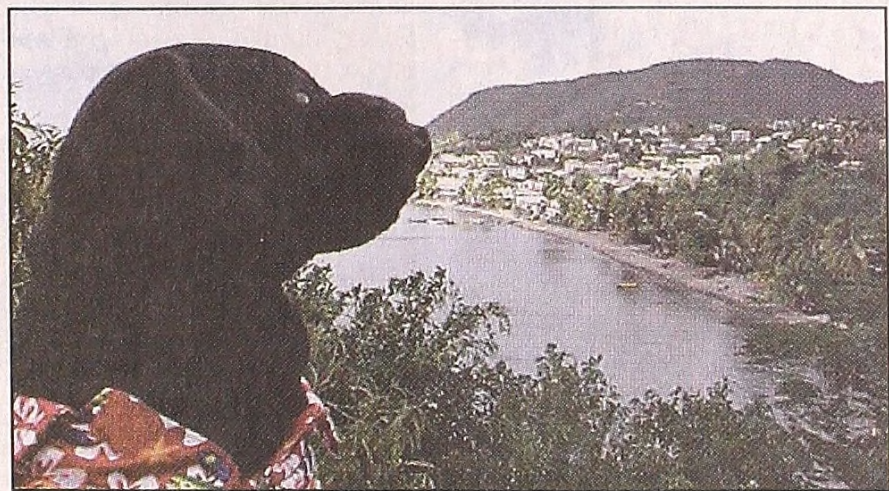
"People get really into it," she

said. "They write up little stories about what he did on his trip. Sometimes they buy him clothing a souvenirs."

So far, Pups has traveled to Canada, Nova Scotia, Japan, Australia, Ireland, Florida, Washington, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Connecticut. Currently, Pups is back in the United Kingdom.

Pups' journey caught the eye of several local news outlets. Recently, Pups was featured on Talkin' Pets Radio Station Live, satellite radio station in Tampa, Fla. "This was a big event for Pups," Kidney said. "He was so proud to be honored on the radio."

Pups is also busy interviewing with Fido Friendly Magazine, which is featuring his story the November/December 2008 issue.



Pups, the traveling Labrador, during many of his travels. The stuffed dog joins a friend in the cabin of a cruise ship (above left), in a rural field (above), and in Antigua (left).

rather it not be back to Main Street, but if I had my own space I would be happy."

"The atmosphere, I feel, was lost not having it downtown," said resident Vera Howell. "If we don't have it downtown it's lost. It has to be downtown."

If Main Street is not available because of road construction, the festival committee wants to allow the event to continue downtown on Third Street from Liberty to Charles, on Fourth Street from Main Street to Charles, Fourth Street Square and Horizon Park.

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9/29: FRI/SAT LS 11:45
9/30: IGOR (PG) 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
10/1: THE FAMILY THAT PREYS (PG-13) 12:05, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
10/2: RIGHTeous KILL (R) 12:20, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:30
10/3: BURN AFTER READING (R) 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 6:55, 9:10
10/4: FRI/SAT LS 11:25
10/5: THE WOMEN (PG-13) 7:15, 9:45
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More than 2,300 southeastern Michigan residents, including dozens from the Plymouth, Canton and Northville communities are expected to participate in the 2008 Susan G. Komen 3 Day Breast Cancer Walk for a Cure. Proceeds generated from the walk will go toward cancer research and outreach programs.

Women walk to cure cancer

Lester L. Holmes, Jr.
Staff Writer

Last year Gretchen Stahl and her son pulled to the side of the road to cheer on a group hikers walking through Plymouth. This year, she is taking more of an active role.

Stahl will join hundreds of Plymouth and surrounding community residents who will walk a three-day 60-mile course through Oakland and Wayne counties this weekend to fight against cancer as part of the annual Susan G. Komen 3 Day Breast Cancer Walk for a Cure.

As one in every eight women in America will develop some form of breast cancer in their lifetime, the Breast Cancer Walk, a fundraising event that occurs in 14 U.S. cities between August and November that raises millions of dollars for breast cancer research, education, and community outreach programs, is growing in size and popularity.

Officials are expecting more than 2,300 participants in Michigan this weekend and exceeding \$5.6 million in funds. More than \$86 million was raised during the 2007 walk campaign.

In addition to walk participants giving at least \$2,200 each to the foundation, walkers go

through an extensive training to prepare their bodies for the experience of walking 60 miles in 72 hours.

Stahl, a Plymouth resident, who has teamed up with a group of friends to participate in the three day walk said she was “inspired” to participate after seeing the army of walkers in pink travel through town last year. She was also motivated by her mother, a breast cancer survivor.

“This is a worthy cause. We can get rid of cancer or prevent it from happening,” Stahl added.

According to walk organizers, the Plymouth community is one of the favorite stops on the course due to the numbers of supporters who come out and cheer participants on.

“I’m a little biased but as far as I’m concerned Plymouth is the best community around,” said 3-Day Walk National Spokeswoman and former Plymouth resident Jenné Fromm.

Fromm added that having balloons, banners and crowds to cheer on walk participants is just as important to the event as the people walking the course.

“The people who are walking in this event have been training for months. They have put so much time and energy in this...the energy they get from

these crowds really means the world to them,” said Fromm. “Being part of the three day at any level will change you. It’s a life-changing experience no matter how you touch it.”

Former Plymouth Mayor Dan Dwyer, who has walked in the event in the past and is participating this weekend, said Plymouth often is supportive of people who are trying to make a difference and he expects community residents to be out in force this weekend.

“It really helps when people get out there to cheer you on. It’s a win-win for everybody.”

Due to security and traffic concerns, walk organizers will not make public the entire course map, however, local residents are encouraged to gather along Main and Penniman streets in downtown Plymouth from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Saturday for the Plymouth Cheering Station. Encouraging signs, banners and posters are welcome.

Opening ceremonies for the Michigan Walk will begin at 7 a.m. on the campus of Oakland Community College and the closing ceremony begins at 5:30 p.m. at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn.

For more information visit www.the3day.org.

City will answer study questions

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Romulus Mayor Alan Lambert said he will be happy to send a representative from his city to Inkster to explain how the cost of a study that opposed the Detroit Metropolitan Airport Master Plan was formulated.

“I don’t take their questioning (the payment) as opposition, and we’d be happy to send someone over there so the Inkster council understands how we came to the figures we did.”

Inkster City Council members tabled a measure to pay a portion of the cost of a study that provided information regarding the impact of a proposed airport expansion their regular meeting Monday, Sept. 15.

The payment, which is \$11,830.77, is the city portion of the cost of a study that was used by the cities of Romulus, Inkster, Dearborn Heights, and Taylor.

Lambert said Inkster was the only city that has requested to take a longer look at the payment request.

On Sept. 18, some Inkster council members questioned the amount of the payment and the methodology used to determine that amount. Councilman Courtney Owens said he was concerned some of the invoices incurred by the cities predated Inkster’s involvement in the fight against the master plan.

Inkster Mayor Hilliard Hampton suggested that the council invite Romulus Economic Development Director Tim Keyes to an Inkster meeting to discuss the amount. Lambert said he would likely ask Keyes to attend an Inkster meeting to make sure everyone involved in the situation understands how the process has worked.

The airport master plan would have resulted in a loss of land for the city of Romulus because the plan included a fifth parallel runway along Eureka Road.

Romulus officials were concerned about the land, but other cities – like Inkster – were mainly concerned about louder, and more frequent, aircraft noise.

Inkster currently does not receive any federal dollars for soundproofing or other provisions to help residents cope with noise.

highly-qualified teacher. “We also have the William D. Ford Center, which is a huge plus,” Cooper added.

Summer school – which has often been an undesirable option for students and parents – is also encouraged, Cooper added.

“We have summer school classes for \$30 per student,” he said. “Of the 467 students we had in classes, 92.5 percent of them had recovered credit.”

Stigma attached

Though districts and economists believe the best case scenario for the state in terms of job attraction is keeping students in school until graduation. At least one speaker said he believed the stigma of dropping out of high school exacts an unnecessary toll on students.

Richard Zeily, who has organized and operated several parochial and charter schools, said, “Look at the name of this forum – Drop-outs: One is Too Many.” If we’re interested in self-esteem, what kind of message does this send? It used to be that if a student had to leave school, he got a job, and was accepted by the community as an adult.”

The hearing at RESA is part of a statewide series of hearings about the drop-out crisis that began earlier this year. Attended by students, parents and educators, as well as law enforcement, business, community and faith leaders, these hearings provide a venue for discussion about the variety of causes and solutions to decrease the dropout rate, officials said.

activity on the site where a gaming Mecca could have stood.

Lambert remains optimistic, in spite of state and county economic conditions.

Calendar of events

NAACP hosts dinner

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) of Western Wayne County is sponsoring the annual “Fight for Freedom” dinner next month.

The dinner will take place from 3-5 p.m. at the Wayne Tree Manor in the City of Wayne.

This year, the guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Carlyle Fielding Stewart III, the pastor of Hope United Methodist Church in Southfield.

The honorary co-chairperson this year is Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans.

Tickets are \$80 per person, which includes a one-year membership in the organization.

The Wayne Tree Manor is located at 31400 Van Born Road.

For more information, call Edna Parker, (734) 722-2868; Aaron Sims, (734) 334-0459; or Carl L. Johnson, (734) 612-9909

Chamber schedules guest

Rob Dumont, president of the Tooling, Manufacturing & Technologies Association, will be a guest speaker at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce Business Luncheon.

Dumont will discuss, importance of trade policy at a federal level, and how those policies affect state and local businesses.

The luncheon will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at the Embassy Suites, 8600 Wickham, Romulus.

The cost of the luncheon is \$15 for members and \$18 for non-members. Registration starts at 11:30 a.m. and lunch is at noon.

Reservations can be made by calling the chamber at (734) 893-0694 or by email at info@romuluschamber.com.

Book club continues on Mondays

The Romulus Public Library still has dates and times for its Monday night book club.

Book discussions are free and open to all residents age 18 and up. Participants need not register in advance.

The library will have copies of the books, or staff members will assist readers in getting inter-library loan copy.

The remaining books that will be analyzed include: “At Home in Mitford” by Jan Karon, which will be discussed Oct. 13; and “A River Runs Through It” by Norman Maclean, which will be discussed Nov. 10.

Refreshments will be served.

The Romulus Public Library is located at 11121 Wayne Road.

For more information, call the library at (734) 942-7589.

— Events are compiled by Staff Writer Molly Tippen.

Dropouts

FROM PAGE 1

age of 15 percent.

But the dropout problem – which state figures indicate lead to increase crime, decreased economic earning potential, is a multifaceted one that will require district to learn more about the challenging problems faced by students, who must bear the brunt of dropping out for a lifetime.

The solutions depend on educators being able to create flexibility for students to ensure their ability to participate in the workforce beyond high school, said forum attendees and speakers.

Standards create new pressure

High school students drop out of classes for a number of reasons, including the inability to learn, social acceptance, parental support and the inability of school officials to respond to various situations.

Dr. Derrick Fries, a researcher at Eastern Michigan University and a former educator, said students who face challenges on any of these fronts need options, especially when it comes to new statewide educational standards that some students aren’t prepared for.

“I’m all for high standards,” he said. “But in some cases, there are students that could be forced out (by the math requirements),” he said.

Fries looked at high schools during his research, and discovered that students who carry a 2.0 grade point average are likely not to pass

the rigorous Algebra II standard out into place by the state, and the problem is not that they’re unwilling to learn the material. Fries said he believes students are ill-prepared for the new standard in terms of their prior experiences with math.

He said this could be frustrating for students, and predicts the drop out level could jump from 18,000 today to more than 30,000 in the coming years.

Social issues

Students who have struggled with prior behavior issues also have trouble getting back into school after expulsion, even if they’ve changed their ways.

Margaret Sayles Harner, the project director of Student Advocacy Center of Michigan, said there are valid reasons for students to be expelled. However, she also said students who amend their behavior should get another chance.

“We don’t have a drop-out problem, we have a push-out problem,” she said.

Sayles Harner said she is currently working with a student who was expelled from Ann Arbor Pioneer High School. The student went through a special program designed to encourage good behavior, and demonstrated progress in that department. Officials at Pioneer refused to let him re-enter school.

“He now takes two buses with one transfer to Ypsilanti High School just to get to school,” she said. “This shouldn’t be that difficult.”

could still come to the city under a different situation politically, they said.

Officials are disappointed because, had a track and casino

Trust issues also come into play for students who consider leaving school, especially those who have troubles at home.

“There needs to be at least one adult at the school that a student feels he or she can trust,” Sayles Harner said. “That would make a huge difference.”

Schools cope with problem

Dropout rates have been an issue for Romulus Community Schools. The 2007 dropout rate is measured at 15.58 percent, which is slightly above the state average.

Schools Superintendent Carl Weiss did not immediately return calls seeking comment about the dropout issue, but Romulus currently offers both vocational and alternative education options, which help many students stay in school.

Later attendance and other specialized options are part of the district alternative program.

Wayne-Westland Schools, which educates a student body of about 12,800 students, has a drop-out rate of 16.26 percent, according to the State of Michigan 2007 4-Year Cohort Graduation and Dropout Rate Report.

Greg Cooper, director of curriculum for the district, testified at the forum. He said the district has made great strides in curbing dropouts through vocational education, technology and credit recovery.

“We have a seven-period credit recovery on-line program that has a pre-test and a post-test so that we can measure a student’s progress,” he said. “This program is taught by a

opened in the city, 3,200 jobs could have been created, and a dedicated revenue stream of \$4 to \$10 million could have been realized by the city.

Residents will have to wait for

Vining

FROM PAGE 1

though city officials believe a casino

OPINION

Master plan process deserves time, attention

Officials in the City of Wayne started a long overdue process last week.

The city planning commissioners interviewed two firms competing for the right to redo the city master plan.

It's about time.

The Wayne master plan dates back to 1965. It has been little more than campaign fodder every other year or so. Given the state of the economy, the state of development and the condition of the state in general, it's high time to look at this document and update it. We need to spend more time planning for the future.

Both firms have some qualifications. The planning commission was to meet Tuesday night to further discuss them and develop the scope of the project. The outcome of that meeting wasn't known when this page went to print, but we hope the planning commission took the broad approach.

This project will be funded through the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). That being said, it makes sense to look at the entire district, not just the downtown

Given the state of the economy, the state of development and the condition of the state in general, it's high time to look at this document and update it. We need to spend more time planning for the future.

area. Merchants and businesses in the south end of the district—on Wayne Road, near Van Born Road—have justifiably voiced concerns that they were left out of consideration in long-term planning. Since this is one of the main gateways into the downtown area—and since there is a potential for so much development to the south, in Romulus, it makes sense to include it.

It also makes sense to take a long look at the Ford Motor Co. land, which also falls within the district. This may be a taboo subject, but planning for the future of that area makes sense, too. It doesn't mean city officials suspect the plants will go away, but it could help prepare for the possibility that they might.

Of the two companies, we like Langworthy, Strader and Leblance. They've done a superior job in places like Northville Township, where they listened to the ideas put forth by the community and officials and incorporated them into their plans. Wortman and Associates, the other firm, does work in the City of Plymouth, Belleville and the City of Northville. They have a tendency to cut and paste ideas from other communities to make them fit. We think Wayne is too special, too unique for that kind of treatment.

Regardless of which way they decide to go, however, we hope officials in the City of Wayne will put a lot of time and effort into this process, that the citizens will come out to give their input and things will start to move forward again.

Political reform starts at home

With a little more than a month to go before the November election, one thing is becoming increasingly clear:

Voters need to do their research this time around.

Given the state of economy—at the local, state and federal levels—this may be one of the most important elections in recent history. Things seem to be a mess just about everywhere you look these days and we need the right people in place to help right the ship.

To us, that means voters should cast aside a long-standing tradition: single party voting.

If ever there was a time to look at each race, each candidate, individually, it is now. Our elected leaders have proven that we are doing a disservice by showing blind devotion to the two-party system. A simple 'Republican' or 'Democrat' vote won't do us any good this time around.

Let's not forget that one of the things that put us into this place to begin with was an adherence to party politics.

Already you can see it happening this year, too, and it's happening in the most ridiculous of places.

Candidates for local boards—like township trustees, for example—are quick to point out that so-and-so is running as a Democrat in these most intimate of elections. Party politics doesn't really have a place at that level. You're not talking about 'working across the aisle' here, you're talking about working with your neighbors.

As always, we encourage everyone to get out and vote this year. But before you do, take time to get to know the people running and put their party preference aside to cast a ballot for the right person. We are at a time when cooperation is what is most important.

Voting is important. Informed voting is even more so.



Never a winner in the old blame game

In the wake of the annexation issue in Northville Township, I should have seen this coming.

The blame game.

Residents have questioned township officials since the defeat of the proposed annexation of the former Northville Psychiatric Hospital property to the City of Livonia.

They want to know how it got to that point to begin with. They want to know who messed up. They want to know who dropped the ball. They want them to know how unhappy they are with the deal they struck with the developer, REIS, on the property in the waning hours leading up to the election.

They are quick to remind them that, despite their failures, it was Livonia residents who bailed them

out.

Yes, campaign season is thoroughly under way in Northville Township.

I'm not saying people shouldn't be asking these questions. I suppose that's human nature. Trying to affix blame to something that ultimately didn't happen, though, doesn't seem like a productive course of action, either. How it got to the point that it ultimately did and the reason it ultimately failed is a little beside the point right now. What's more important is making sure it won't happen again and working to make the best out of the situation.

Township officials have been criticized, but they have tried to do the first and are working on the second. They petitioned legislators to close the loophole that left them—and townships across the

state—open to this kind of action. The Legislature failed them. They petitioned the courts to address the issue. The courts ruled against them. Everywhere they turned, they were shut down so they had no choice but to make a deal, knowing as they did that nobody would be truly happy with it.

Questions came up during the board of trustees meeting last week about how the board allowed the security guards to take up residence there. I don't think the board of trustees should have that kind of oversight; do you want elected officials looking over building permits? I don't. I'd rather have them do their job. I don't think they should be criticized for not predicting that said guards would register to vote and try to steal the property away to greener pastures, so to

speak. Who would have thought that would happen?

OK, so mistakes were made. The deal isn't ideal. The development may not be anything that the township can be truly proud of. Everyone involved from the township side has said they were forced to give up more than they wanted to. Retreading that old ground won't solve anything.

What's important now is working to come up with the best development possible and trying to fix the hurt that has been caused. If township voters want to do a good thing for the community, they should try to decide who would be best suited for that, not just who was around when the nastiness took place.

Talk about adding insult to injury...

Don't you just love politics?

With a little less than six weeks remaining until the Nov. 4 General Election, I, as I suspect many of you, have been inundated with

campaign literature, emails and other forms of correspondence attempting to sway my vote for everything from Wayne County prosecutor to the president of the United States. I have also been vigorously informed of the next great conspiracy to steal the election.

And more often than not, the literature we receive causes more trouble than help.

Last week I received two different emails to my personal address informing me of a plan by the Macomb County Republicans to use a list of foreclosed properties to challenge voters registered at those homes. The premise, according to the email, is that people who are being foreclosed from their homes may no longer live at the properties, meaning they are ineligible to vote in the precinct or district.

The email I received was of a story published by the Michigan Messenger; an online political blog that claimed to interview James Carabelli, the chair of the Macomb County GOP who they claimed said

that election challengers will be position in voting places with a high number of foreclosed areas and challenge votes cast by those claiming to live in the properties. The idea, according to the blog, can spread throughout the state placing residents in several western Wayne County municipalities at risk of disenfranchisement come November.

Carabelli along with the state Republican Party said there is no such plan and he was misquoted in the story. (The state GOP has filed a libel lawsuit against the blog)

However, their flat-out denial didn't stop the Michigan Democratic Party and the Barack Obama campaign from filing a lawsuit in federal court against the state Republicans in an effort to challenge their perceived attempts to challenge voters.

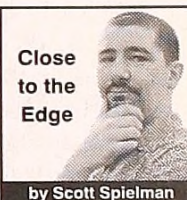
In and of itself, having a foreclosed property does not mean a person stops living in the home. And according to Michigan Election Law, a person who within 60 days before an election may vote

using their former address and voting location. Michigan residents have until Oct 6 to register to vote.

No matter who you believe, the bloggers or the political parties, you can expect more accusations of electioneering and "vote-stealing" coming from both sides of the aisle as we move closer to having either the first African-American President or female Vice President.

As for challenging voters from foreclosed properties, the whole issue would go away immediately if Gov. Jennifer Granholm and State Sen. Majority Leader Mike Bishop (R-Rochester) would have a joint press conference to announce that the votes coming from residents of foreclosed properties will be protected.

Bottom line, people who are fighting to protect their homes or start their lives over in new locations should not have to fight to make sure their votes count.



by Scott Spielman



by Lester Holmes

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Letters

Dog lover says thanks

To the editor;

This is a letter of thanks to the *Journal Newspapers* and the person or persons who picked the picture on the cover of the 2008 Plymouth Fall Festival magazine.

Although the hundreds and thousands of people who saw the picture over the three days of the festival have probably forgotten what it was, I can assure you there is one family in the area who will talk about this cover at family gatherings and holiday meals for a very long time.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words and this one surely is. It shows my grandson, Erick, who is by my side whenever we are together and also my dog, Bernie. I'd like to tell you about this dog and how he affected my life and my family. He was rescued from the Westland Humane Society shelter in the fall of 2002 and became my best friend until I lost him the early part of 2008 to bone cancer.

Most families that have pets never experience the closeness I had with this dog. I wasn't his owner, but rather I was his best friend and he was mine. Being in the later part of my life and my children grown and gone, this dog was mine and not my kids'. When you have kids and a dog, you are the one that picks up after him and makes sure he has food and water, but that's about it. But later in life, an animal becomes a friend and companion that shares your life with everyday happenings. Bernie was that to me, we would walk in the early mornings when the sound of traffic was almost gone and the morning dew was in the air before the heat of the day was too much to bear for an older man and his dog.

We would sit in the living room together after our morning jaunt around the neighborhood and watch TV and this dog, believe it or not, would sit next to me on my couch like a person, his butt on the seat and actually push against me for room.

We would share a doughnut together watching the morning news and on cold mornings, he would lay on my feet to keep me warm.

Now Bernie was considered a giant in his breed (Old English Sheepdog), he always weighed around 130 pounds and was nicknamed by our best friends as the Gentle Giant of the neighborhood. When my wife, Alice, and I would go on vacation, Bernie would stay with them and it was like a vacation for him, too, because of the way he was treated there. I'll never forget the first time he stayed with them and how they howled about the way he would sit next to my friend, Bill, and watch TV with him. I just wish now I had taken a picture of two of this so I could show people I tell this story to that it really did happen.

They say the good die young and I think this is also true with pets.

Bernie contracted bone cancer in late 2007 and was taken from me in January of 2008. I think letting him go and stopping his suffering was the hardest thing I have ever had to do.

It's been almost a year since that time and I still miss him.

The many memories I'll always have of Bernie will be with me until I leave this Earth and I can only hope when I get to St. Peter's gate I'll see my friend once again waiting for me. Heaven will not be complete unless he's by my side once more.

Well, that's the story behind that dog in the picture and I hope it makes the people that read this letter think about the cover and what it means. And once again I want to thank whoever picked that picture from the many that were considered. You made a local family very happy with your choice.

Bob (and Alice) Denstedt,
Canton

Resident wants real change

To the editor;

Every day "We the People" are inundated with irrelevant election and mudslinging nonsense. Ads that keep touting how our country needs "change" are nothing more than pure lip service. Reactionary fixes to festering problems have had cataclysmic results. The financial news of this past week has proven this and will continue to do so.

There is one (former) candidate who has been warning us and Congress for years about what has recently occurred in the financial markets. He was ridiculed throughout the 2007 debates. He has suggested real market solutions to remedy our "critical condition" economy, incomprehensible deficits, the unconstitutionality of direct taxes on our wages, the unconstitutional control of our monetary system by a private foreign corporation (which is not federal nor has any reserves), the real cause of price inflation (another tax) and of course, our ineffective foreign policy which has diminished our once-strong national defense into an oppressive international offense.

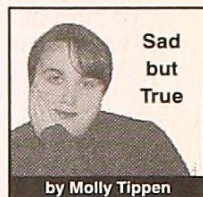
Although he suspended his campaign in June, this great American began a new, perpetual campaign entitled "Campaign For Liberty". Enter Ron Paul. Some media label him as a radical. This is interesting because our founding fathers were also considered radicals in their day. Defined, "radicals" can also mean to get to the root of something...like all of the above issues currently plaguing our great community.

As usual, most voters just go along to get along and will end up settling for the lesser of the two media-endorsed candidates. This is truly a wasted vote. Think about it carefully. Turn off American Idol and study who is really going to effect change to restore our republic.

For me, I will vote my conscience as I cannot vote for someone I don't respect. Wake up America...and hurry please.

Bruce Hartdegen,
Plymouth

Racism rears it's ugly head



Sad but True

by Molly Tippen

There are some big changes afoot in Inkster with the selection of a new city manager:

For starters, when I walked into the council chambers at Inkster City Hall two Saturdays ago, I expected that it to be a long, boring day, just like it was in 2004, when the council decided to hire Joyce Parker.

For the most part, it was, until the very end.

After five interviews, the council decided to discuss the candidates, and that's when the fireworks started.

Getting to a consensus – and it's not that one is required, just desired – was difficult this time, and several members charged with the responsibility of picking the next manager made comments that made the community appear far less progressive than it actually is.

After a long debate about former city planner Richard Wooten and former Taylor Economic Development Director Fred Zorn (who has been offered the job), Mayor Hilliard Hampton – once he saw the council was not going to back his choice, which was Wooten – told the council and the six or so interested residents that he wanted to look into allegations that African Americans were forced from their homes at a public housing cluster in Taylor, thereby insinuating that Zorn may have been involved.

This was inappropriate in so many ways – and if it this were actually a larger concern, why wasn't Zorn asked about it during his interview?

At some point in the interview Councilman Courtney Owens said Hampton wanted Wooten because he was "y'all's boy," in a reference to Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick's now-infamous speech about her son, Kwame, the embattled former mayor of Detroit.

You have to wonder whether, as potential investors look at Inkster, if they're really going to take the city seriously after this sort of thing.

You also have to wonder about the effects of the meeting on Zorn, who has to decide whether he wants the job when a unanimous hire for the position was forced.

We'll see what happens. But one thing we do know is, whatever the outcome, its bound to be interesting.

Send us your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor.

Letters should be addressed to:

The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave.,
Wayne, Michigan 48184.

All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length.

CLASSIFIED

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& Cemetery Plots
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117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Freebies
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

1. Obituaries



MOTLEY, Barbara Ann March 4, 1047 - September 13, 2008. Barbara leaves to cherish his memory: one son, Jerome (Vikki) of Inkster, four grand-children, Nikiesha Bunton (Kareem) of Dearborn Heights, Anthony Hillman, April Hillman, Maria Motley of Naples, Florida, six great-grandchildren. Two sisters, Etta Wooten of Vanburen Twp., Denise Brintley (Ambrose) of Inkster, two brothers, Stanley Motley of Troy and Martess Motley of Taylor. One sister-in-law, Dovie Motley (Henry-deceased), eighteen nieces and nephews. Three special friends, Cheryl Dance, Marsha Jackson and Barbara Ulmer, and a host of other relatives and friends. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

BROWN, Jerry age 69. September 14, 2008. Beloved father of Cheryl (Donald) Benhke, Kathy Clayton, Bill Denton, John Denton, Mike Denton, Pete Denton and Jerry (Victoria) Brown Jr. and the late Ron Denton. Dear grandfather of 16 and great grandfather of 10. Loving brother of Pat

(Erma)n and Joan Doan. Special companion of Faye Bevel. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home, Wayne.



CHARLES, Kenny LeHom, age 20, died September 17, 2008. He was born May 5, 1988. He leaves to celebrate his precious memories his Son, Kenny LeHom Charles Jr, His loving parents Billie and Marie Charles of Romulus, MI; three siblings, Charlicka Hawkins (Claude) of Romulus, MI, William Charles of Inkster, MI and Valerie Kelley-Bonner (Thomas) of Belleville, MI. His grandmother Rosie Townsend; Three aunts, Patricia Jones (Williams), Ida Allen (James), and Robbie Thomason; Four uncles, Kenny McFarland (Marina), Homer Webb, James Charles (Louise) and Willie Earl Johnson (Trish); Three nephews, Claude IV better known as Pooder, Deangelo, and William; four nieces, Chakya, Ciana, Markeia and Shamaya. His girlfriend Marissa Wolson and a host of relatives and friends. Services at First Baptist Church in Romulus. Final arrangements were entrusted to Penn Funeral Home, Inkster, MI.

PARSELL, Glenwood J. September 18, 2008 age 58 of Westland. Beloved husband of Priscilla Parker Parsell. Dear father of Dennis Parsell and Brian Parsell. Brother of John Parsell, Ruth (Bleve) Money, Rosemary (Amos) Hicks, Marion Kimberlin, Judith Richey and the late Lewis Parsell. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews. Services Saturday, September 27, 2008, 1pm at the Uht Funeral Home, Westland, with Rev. Kevin J. McNaughton, Sr. officiating, with burial at Denton Cemetery, Canton to follow. Family will receive friends Friday 1-9 pm at the funeral home. Please visit and post a note of condolence at www.uhtfh.com.

RENO, Jon F. September 11, 2008 age 73 of Westland. Beloved husband of Carolyn. Dear father of Karen (Harry) Fulkerson, Donna (Rich) Olmstead, Jim (Liz) Reno, Kathy Smith and Linda (Dan) Nagle, Brother of Donna (the late Patrick) Cotter and Joan (Marty) Howe. Grandfather of 17, great great grandfather of 7. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at St. Mary Church, Wayne, with Fr. David Burgard officiating, followed by entombment at Cadillac Memorial Gardens Cemetery, West, Westland. Family received friends at the Uht Funeral Home, Westland. Please visit and post a note of condolence at www.uhtfh.com.

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9. Lost & Found

FOUND

Young femail cat black and white. Found in area of Glenwood and Venoy. Wayne/Westland. Call 734-397-8187.

10. Coming Events

New Beginnings Church Welcomes Bob Dutko from WMUZ radio as a guest speaker on Sunday, Sept. 28th @ 10:30am Open to the Public Location: 5225 S. Venoy, Wayne, #734-722-5210

30. Help Wanted

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59. Auctions

Notice is hereby given that on 10/22/2008 at 2:00pm the following will be sold by competitive bidding at National Storage Center, 39205 Ford Rd., Westland, MI 48185.

Unit#262 Kathy Smith, Household Goods, Rec-reational items, Misc. goods
Unit#343 Raymond Miller, Household Goods, Misc. goods
Unit#346 Raymond Miller, Household Goods, Recreational Items, Misc. Goods
Unit#402 Tangela Simpson Household Items, Recreational Items, Misc. Goods
Unit#443 Jennifer Brown Household Goods, Rec-reational Items, Misc. Goods
Unit#465 Cynthia

K.Starback Household Goods, Misc. Goods
Unit#476 Michael Stanley Household Items, Recreational Items, Misc. Goods

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Note: Vehicle is Canton Impound

00 Ford Ranger-Black 1FTZR15V2YTB33196
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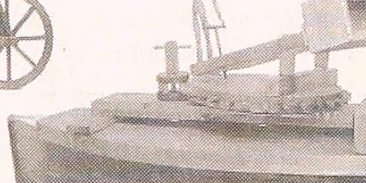
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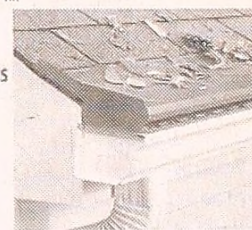
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Shooting investigated at supervisor's home

Andrea King
Staff Writer

An altercation and gunfire at the home of Van Buren Township Supervisor Cindy King is being investigated by police.

According to police reports, King's daughter had a party for her friends and members of the Belleville High School band at the family home on Ormond Drive recently.

During the party, a large number of 'uninvited' teens arrived and were denied entry into the house.

A township officer witnessed the firing of gunshots into the air by someone outside the home. The revolver was recovered by the officer, although the shooter fled the scene and was not apprehended, officials said.

Witnesses told responding officers and investigators that the uninvited teens were known gang members from Romulus and Ypsilanti, according to police reports.

"No one was injured as a result of the gunshots," said

Jerry Champagne, director of the township public safety department. "One nearby resident did intervene in the situation at the home in an attempt to quiet things down. He was assaulted by three or four unknown teens. His injuries were the result of punches and he did not seek medical attention."

King said she did not give her daughter permission to have a party. She said she was "very disappointed" in her daughter. She added that her daughter is not happy with the restrictions imposed on her as a result of the incident, either.

"As that would likely be the stance any teenager would take," King said. "However, she needs to understand that my trust was violated and that will take time to regain.

"The fact that a bunch of trouble makers showed up with the resulting shots fired, and a car chase, is what makes this incident even more unsettling than it just being an unauthorized (parent approved) party," she added. "I am very sorry it happened and potentially exposed her, her friends, the

party-goers, my neighbors and our police officers to harm. We have spoken to several neighbors and they have been very understanding."

King said they have lived in the neighborhood since May and have been quiet, good neighbors, thus far.

"I am not fearful to live in my neighborhood. We've lived her for four months and it is a wonderful place to live," she said. "The neighbors are great and look out for one another.

"Sorry to sound parochial, but my number one concern is for my daughter."

King noted that someone invited the teens who fired the gun and caused the problems even though her daughter vouches

for the character of the classmates she invited.

"Somebody invited them," King said.

Champagne said he's not aware of any concerted efforts of gangs in the township; however, the mobility of gang members from other communities coming into Van Buren is what may

be happening.

"We will be investigating the gang activity to see if we do in fact have a problem," he said. "Whether we have a gang problem or not, the perception of having gangs and the fear in the community is a concern of mine that will be looked at very closely."

King said she's not certain of a gang problem in the Belleville area, although she mentioned the recent school district discussions and gang forum they hosted.

"Based upon what was presented, this incident and others, I suspect there are at minimum gang 'wannabees' and perhaps gangs," she said.

Officials will be talking with homeowner groups, students and concerned citizens in an effort to identify gang activity and the origin.

"I assure you that we will be taking any and all gang activity very seriously and we will aggressively work to counteract on any problems before they get out of hand," said Champagne.

Sorry to sound parochial, but my number one concern is for my daughter.

Van Buren Township Supervisor Cindy King

Tax abatement gets OK

Van Buren Township Board of Trustee officials approved an industrial facilities exemption certificate for Statewide Boring recently.

Statewide Boring received the tax abatement to install new technology equipment to machine parts for the pharmaceutical and aerospace industries. They qualify for a six-year abatement, for about \$30,000 in real property and about \$320,000 for personal

property.

In 2003, Statewide Boring opened with three employees and has grown to 23, and spokesmen said the company hopes to an additional two. That represents about an 850 percent employee growth in four years, officials said.

Statewide taxes would be reduced from about \$4,423 without the abatement, to \$2,211.86 with the approval.

NOTICE OF CLOSE OF REGISTRATION FOR GENERAL ELECTION - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2008

To the Qualified Electors of CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN- WAYNE COUNTY

Notice is hereby given that Monday, October 6, 2008 is the last day to register to vote or change your address for the above stated election.

If you are not currently registered to vote or have changed your address in the above stated jurisdiction in which you live, you may do so at the following locations and times listed in this notice.

Qualified electors may also register to vote or change their address in the following manners:

In Person:

- At the township clerk's office or at the office of any county clerk during normal business hours.
- At any of the Secretary of State Branch offices located throughout the state during normal business hours.
- At the specified agency for clients receiving services through the Family Independence Agency, the Department of Community Health, Michigan Jobs Commission and some offices of the Commission for the Blind.
- At the military recruitment offices for persons enlisting in the armed forces.

By Mail:

By obtaining and completing a Mail Voter Registration Application and forwarding to the election official as directed on the application by the close of registration deadline. Mail voter registration applications may be obtained by contacting:

JOANNIE D. PAYNE, CLERK
734.699.8909
46425 TYLER RD.
VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MI 48111

Qualifications for Registration

- Applicant is at least 18 years of age.
- Resident of Van Buren Township for at least 30 days.
- Citizen of the United States.

Note:

A Person who registers to vote by mail is required to vote in person unless they have previously voted in person in the city/township where they live or are at least 60 years of age or are handicapped.

Applications for Absentee Voter Ballots are available at the Clerk's Office. The deadline for filing an application to receive an Absentee Ballot for the November 4, 2008 Election is Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Clerk's office.

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Publish: September 25, 2008

Send us your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor.

Letters should be addressed to:

The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan 48184.

All letters will be considered for publication and may be edited for content, space and length.

CITY OF ROMULUS, MICHIGAN NOTICE OF LAST DAY TO REGISTER

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF ROMULUS, COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION AND SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTION TO HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2008

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Romulus, County of Wayne, State of Michigan:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, in conformity with the Michigan Election Law, I, the undersigned City Clerk, will upon any day EXCEPT Sunday, a legal holiday, and the day of any regular or special election, receive for registration the name of any resident not registered, who may APPLY for such registration EXCEPT during the time intervening between the CLOSE of registration for the General Election and the day of such election.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that registrations will be taken at any Secretary of State branch office or in the ROMULUS CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan between the hours of:

Monday thru Friday – 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
AND THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER WILL BE:
Tuesday, October 6, 2008 – 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Every person who has the following qualifications, or who will have those qualifications at the next election shall be entitled to register:

1. A citizen of the United States, not less than 18 years of age.
2. A resident of the state for not less than 30 days.
3. A resident of the City of Romulus.

For the purpose of REVIEWING THE REGISTRATION LIST AND REGISTERING such of the qualified electors who shall properly apply therefor, the name of no person but an ACTUAL RESIDENT of the City of Romulus at the time of registration, and entitled under the Constitution to vote at the next election, if remaining such resident, shall be entered in the registration book.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that candidates for the following three proposals will be voted on:

Electors for President and Vice President of the United States

- United States Senator
- United States Representative in Congress
- Representative in State Legislature
- Two Members of the State Board of Education
- Two Regents of the University of Michigan
- Two Trustees of Michigan State University
- Two Governors of Wayne State University
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Sheriff
- County Clerk
- County Treasurer
- Register of Deeds
- County Commissioner
- Justice of the Supreme Court, Regular Term Ending 1/1/13, (Vote 1)
- Judge of the Court of Appeals - 1st. District, (Vote 3)
- Judges of the Circuit Court - 3rd. Judicial Circuit, (Incumbent Positions - Vote 18)
- Judges of the Circuit Court - 3rd. Judicial Circuit, (Non-Incumbent Positions - Vote 3)
- Judges of the Circuit Court - 3rd. Judicial Circuit, Partial Term Ending 1/1/11 (Incumbent Positions - Vote 2)
- Judge of Probate Court, (Incumbent Positions - Vote 3)
- Judge of District Court - 34th. District, (Incumbent Position - Vote 1)
- Trustee - Wayne County Community College (District 9 - Vote 1)

and, the following proposals:

STATE PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 08-1

A LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO PERMIT THE USE AND CULTIVATION OF MARIJUANA FOR SPECIFIED MEDICAL CONDITIONS.

PROPOSAL 08-2

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ADDRESS HUMAN EMBRYO AND HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH IN MICHIGAN.

WAYNE COUNTY PROPOSALS

WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT MILLAGE RENEWAL AND REDUCTION.

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROPOSAL

Romulus Community Schools Sinking Fund Proposal

To create a sinking fund and approve the levy of 0.75 mills for construction and repair of school buildings for the 10 years 2008 to 2017, inclusive.

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL

A proposal exempting principal residence other property exempted by law 1.50 mills for the 4 years 2008 to 2011, inclusive, to restore Headlee reduction.

STATEMENT AS REQUIRED BY ACT 278 OF PUBLIC ACTS OF 1964 Amending the Property Tax Limitation Act

I, Raymond J. Wojtowicz, Treasurer of Wayne County, Michigan, do hereby certify that, as of September 8, 2008, the total of all voted increases in excess of the tax rate limitation established by Section 6, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Michigan, as amended, and the years such increases are effective on property in the County of Wayne are as follows:

WAYNE COUNTY Wayne County, Michigan Voted			
Taxing Authorities	Date of Election	Increases	Years Increase ffective
County of Wayne	August 8, 2000	1 mill	2009
Wayne County Jail	August 6, 2002	1 mill	2011
Wayne County Parks	August 2, 2005	0.25 mills	2010
Wayne County Community College	November 6, 2001	1.5 mills	2010
Romulus School District (only)	September, 1999	18 mills	2011 (non-homestead only)
(non-homestead only)	September, 1999	16.63 mills	2011

Signed:

RAYMOND J. WOJTOWICZ
Wayne County Treasurer

Public notice is hereby given by the Romulus City Clerk in accordance with Section 168.653a of the Michigan Elections Law, as amended.

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

Publish: September 25, 2008

College to request reduced tax millage

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) will ask Wayne County voters to help continue to support the schools on the November ballot.

The college is seeking the renewal and reduction of the current 1.5 mill property tax levy, which was first approved in November 2001 for 10 years. The request is for 1.25 mills, which would go into effect in 2011. It is not a tax increase, but it will ensure open-door educational opportunities for everyone, according to officials.

"The reality check is it will significantly affect the ability to provide services that many students have enjoyed over the years," said Vidya Moorthy, spokesperson for the college district.

There are three main sources of revenue for the college: property tax, tuition and student appropriation. The November request will reduce the current 2.5 mills for voters, if approved. Of the current rate, 1.5 mills is permanent and 1.5 was appropriated by the voters, Moorthy said. The new rate would be a reduction of .25 mill.

"It's important for the district to ensure the revenue is in place because so much is on the line," she said. "We need to know now because a significant portion of the annual budget is on the line, too, and we need to know as much as possible in advance."

The college district encompasses 32 communities, about 500 square miles and about 2.3 million people. It also serves nearly 70,000 credit and non-credit students every semester, according to officials.

"WCCCD is an institution that is critical to the region and the need is evidenced by our soaring student enrollment," said Dr. Curtis Ivery, chancellor of the college. "This is more so in today's challenging economic times—at nearly 9 percent, Michigan has the highest unem-

ployment rate in the nation and within Michigan it is southeast Michigan that is going through the most turbulent times.

"Also, the paradigm shift in the workforce places additional emphasis on the importance of our Workforce Development programs, which help train and retrain workers for new skills and new careers," he added.

The college plays an essential role in better preparing people for jobs so that they can live a better life. It also plays an important role in job retraining for laid-off workers and other in career transitions, officials said.

"Essentially, the district is preparing students for careers of the future by offering retraining at an affordable price," said Moorthy. "All these things are vital to continue to provide and keep the momentum going. We need the resources to keep suitable; we have built and maintained and are growing, but from here on out there's still work that needs to be done."

Not only does the college have more than 90 programs and courses and a culturally diverse student body representing 60 countries, it also had massive capital improvement programs at all five campus locations, officials said.

"The larger point is we are on a strategic investment path. Our campus transformation has been significant and dramatic," said Moorthy.

Students, like Wanda Hanson of Belleville, said she will absolutely be voting 'yes' on the millage. Anything to benefit the schools, education and the opportunity for everyone is something she supports, Hanson said.

"It's a great school, the nursing program is great, it's close to home and I get to do work-study. It's been a well-rounded balance and experience for me," she said.

Hanson, a work-study student at the college for two years, originally chose the school because of all the 'positives' she heard. She was in 'Corporate America' for many years, she said, and wanted to pick-

"We need the resources to keep suitable; we have built and maintained and are growing, but from here on out there's still work that needs to be done."

up different skills to change careers.

"You get a lot more one on one time and help from everyone so I feel it really does benefit," Hanson said. "It's a second career opportunity for me so I see all ages here."

"I think the community should be supportive and aware of what the community college is doing for the area, especially in this economy," she added.

"The college opens the door to those people, they're there and surely it's a positive to have right at their back door."

Every citizen benefits daily from the public safety and health professionals who developed their job

skills at WCCCD. They provide educational services to meet the needs of the urban and suburban communities in its service area, according to the college.

The district partners with regional secondary schools and encourages students to complete high school and transition to college. The students deserve a high quality educational service that is equal to those provided by other community colleges, officials said.

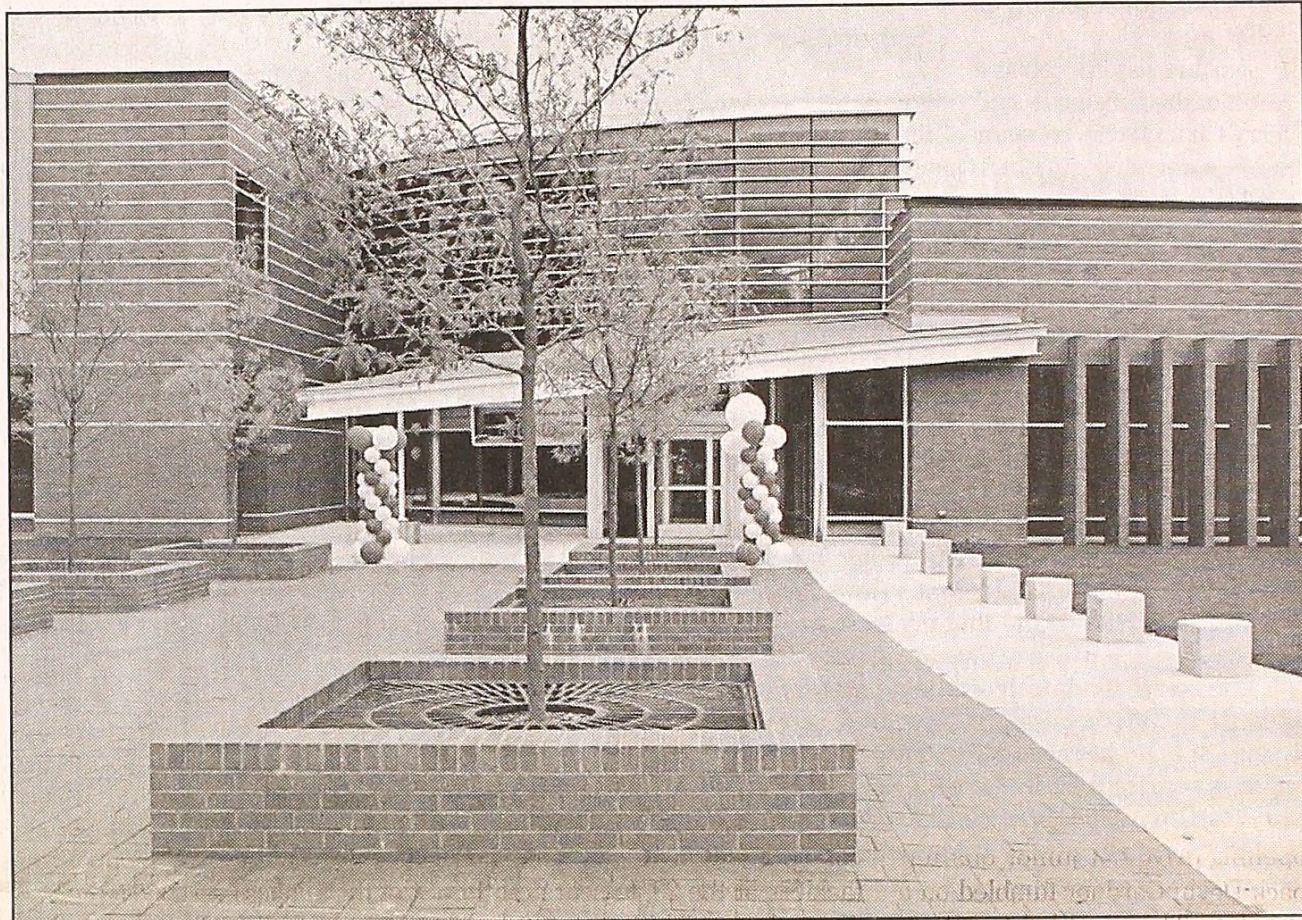
If the millage is not approved, college officials said they will most likely have to make program, facility and services cuts.

"We really haven't conducted a detailed study, but we're almost

certain we'll have to slash programs, facilities and deny services and it'd be a tragic event for all residents and students at a time of serious need," said Moorthy. "Now, we have over 70,000 students at the district in 2008 and it represents nearly a 320 percent increase; that's telling on our achievement and need for the district. We do expect the enrollment trend to continue to expand. We had 7,824 students alone at the western campus in the spring 2008 semester and we continue to grow. We want area residents and voters to know we're on the ballot."

"Whether it's nursing, firefighting, how to knit a sweater or if you're a grandparent, come on in, we serve the entire gamut of people; that's our mission," said Moorthy.

"Overall we believe it's (millage approval) important for area residents and the value of this district and institution," she added.



Wayne County Community College recently celebrated the opening of a much-needed addition at the Belleville campus.

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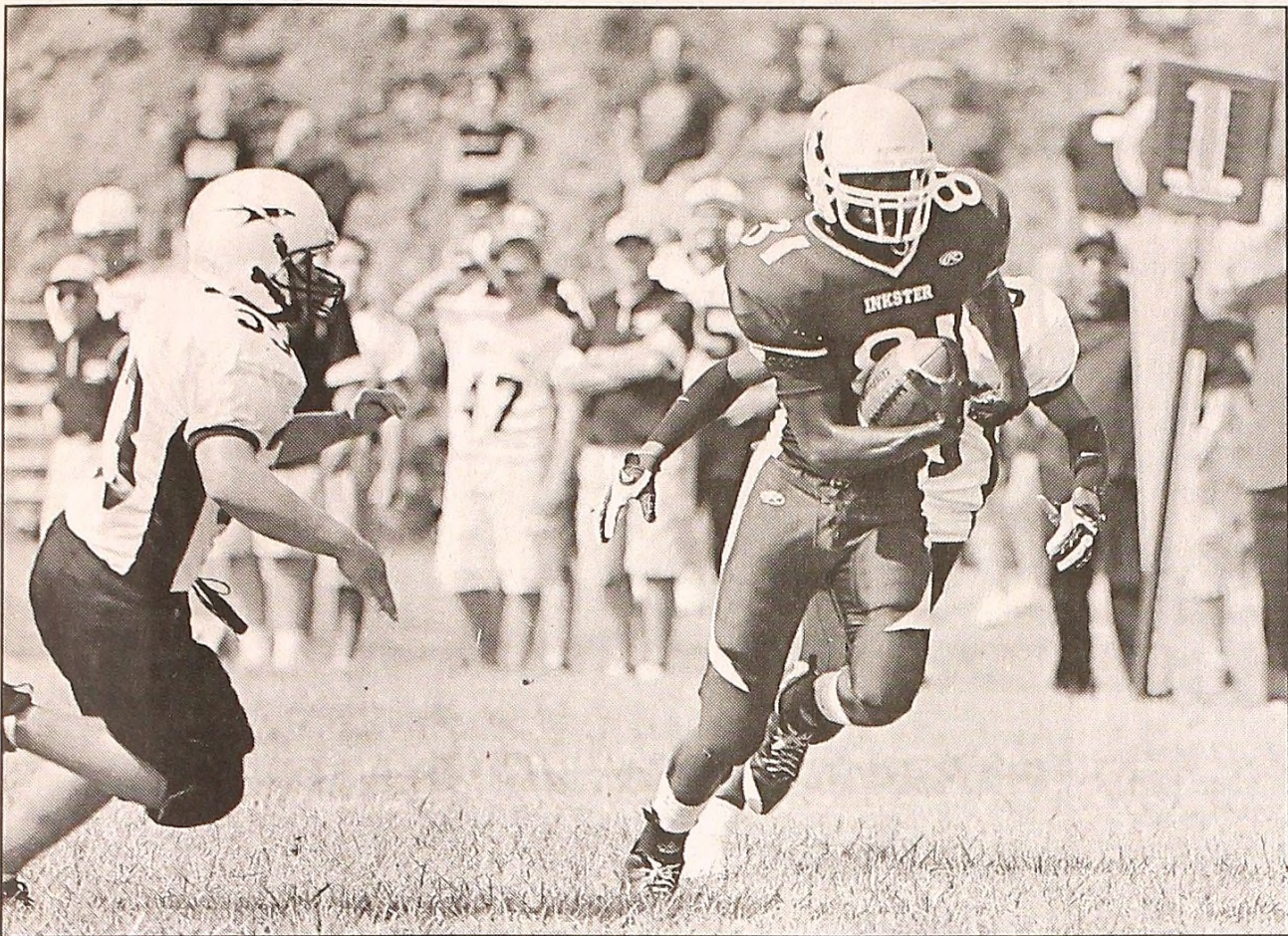
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SPORTS



Inkster's Jonathan Taylor (81) races toward he end zone on Saturday when his Vikings beat visiting Edsel Ford 38-6. Photo by Jeff Novak

Vikings sack Edsel Ford

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

What started out as a sluggish defensive battle between host Inkster and Dearborn Edsel Ford turned into a 41-7 route in favor of the Vikings on Saturday.

Inkster actually trailed, 7-6, at the end of the first half but the sleeping giant of an offense woke up and caged the Thunderbirds in the last 24 minutes.

Inkster moved the ball on its opening drive but junior quarterback Devin Gardner fumbled on a sneak in Thunderbird territory. Edsel Ford recovered on its 32-yard line. No points were recorded in the first quarter.

At the end of the frame Edsel Ford put together a 12-play drive that ended with a Kevin King two-yard touchdown just five seconds into the second quarter. The point after was good for a Thunderbird, 7-0, lead.

The Viking answered with a 22-yard scoring pass by Gardner to junior wide receiver Jonathan Taylor on the ensuing drive. The two-point conversion attempt failed, which made it a 7-6 contest.

"Their running game is awesome," said Inkster Coach Greg Carter. "We had some difficulty in the first half and they tested us. They moved the ball and made some big pass plays on third down that let them keep possession of the ball. We went back and talked

about some of the small things we did wrong in the first half and shored up our pass coverage. We wanted to really stop that good running game on first down and make it second and long. And I think we did that in the second half."

The offense was a completely different team in the second half, moving the ball at will.

After forcing Edsel Ford to punt, Inkster scored on its first possession of the third frame. Gardner connected with Taylor, who shed tacklers at the 33, to score on the 53-yard play. This time the two-point conversion was good when Gardner ran it in for a 14-7 lead with 8:15 left to play in the third.

Gardner scored again five minutes later to make it 20-7.

The running game showed some improvement in the fourth when senior running back Alan Freeman scampered 12 yards to put the Viking up, 26-7, with 11:46 to go. Gardner ran the two-point attempt in to further the lead.

Senior receiver Antwain Calloway grabbed a pass from Gardner with 8:33 left to play for a 34-7 advantage. Senior running back Kevin Brown capped off the scoring with a 27-yard jaunt with 4:56 left on the clock. Senior Denzel Richmond's kick was good for the 41-7 finish.

The key on offense was to spread out the defense. It worked with big pass plays by Gardner to

his receivers. The Inkster defense and special teams helped out, giving the offense short field opportunities on three separate occasions.

"We knew that they had six, seven guys in the box and we needed to open it up a little bit," Carter said. "I think the key thing for our offense was our defense turning it over and giving us opportunities. If teams posses the ball on us it's not going to allow our offense to get in any kind of rhythm. So with our defense turning the ball over to give the offense a lot of opportunities that makes us a good team."

Another key factor was the return of senior center Andre Willis, who missed previous weeks with an injury. He's still not at 100 percent but he made a difference, according to Carter.

"As of yesterday (Friday) we weren't sure if he was going to play," Carter said.

"He's just sucking it up right now. That makes all the difference in the world to our young line because he's an experienced guy out there and he gives them direction.

"Right now we're at that point, with our offensive line, that if don't practice against what they're doing we're in trouble on game day because they haven't seen a lot of things," he added. "He means the world to us."

Inkster heads to Garden City for a 7 p.m. bout with the Cougars on Friday.

Cards hold off Eagles

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

A victory for the Romulus Eagles' wasn't in the 'Cards' on Friday.

In a three-hour battle with the Melvindale Cardinals, Romulus came up short in a 20-17 home loss in the early game on Friday.

Penalties and turnovers riddled both teams, including a fumble lost by Romulus in Melvindale territory with 2:33 left to play. Romulus had three other turnovers in the game.

"I know we had way too many penalties and that hurt us definitely," said Romulus Coach Keith Wittkopp. "We were making those mental mistakes in practice and you're going to play the way you practice. We have guys that are working hard. They're definitely college-bound kids, but we just got to get our minds right in practice."

The rule of thumb is: whoever wins the turnover battle usually wins the game. That wasn't the case this time around. Melvindale turned the ball over six times but still hung on for the victory.

The Cardinals capitalized on a third-quarter interception when sophomore running back Javon Mullins-Whigham pushed in from one yard out to give Melvindale a 20-9 lead with 2:48 left in the half.

Romulus made up for an early fumble that the Cardinals recovered on the Melvindale 10. On the second play of the ensuing drive, Romulus hauled Melvindale junior running back Wayne Pettus out the back of the end zone for a safety and a 2-0 lead with 9:37 remaining in the first quarter.

Then The Eagles flew to a 9-0 lead when senior quarterback Rodney Cofield trudged in from three yards out.

Things looked to settle in for the Eagles until they gave up a big pass play that set up Pettus for a two-yard run. That closed the gap, 9-7.

The Eagles recovered a fumble with 7:26 left in the first half but couldn't take advantage of it.

On the following drive, the Cards scored on a six-yard pass by David Smith to Brian Patterson with 4:03 left in the half to go ahead, 13-9.

With 41 seconds left Romulus' senior defensive back Loren Townes stymied a Melvindale drive with an interception. Again the Eagles couldn't capitalize on the turnover. Romulus recovered another fumble on the Cardinals' next drive and nabbed an interception nine seconds into the fourth but still could not convert.

It wasn't until senior defensive lineman Dion Shepherd grabbed a fumble out of mid-air and ran in for a score with 9:51 to play. That put the Eagle back in it, 20-15.

The defense stepped up again when a host of Eagles tackled Smith in the end zone for another safety, closing the distance to three points, 20-17.

"I think we have a really good defense and they kept us in every game we've been in so far," Wittkopp said. "They scored against Highland Park, which helped us win. They had a lot of interceptions against Garden City and here they helped keep us in it,

See Eagles, page 11



Romulus quarterback Rodney Colfield (10) tries to get loose to make a play in the Eagles' 17-14 loss to Melvindale on Friday. Photo by Jeff Novak

Northville Mustangs pummel South Lyon East

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Northville Mustangs have won nearly as many games this year as they have in the last three years combined.

The team is now an impressive 3-1 overall. With the Mustangs' latest victory a 48-18 rout of a young host South Lyon East team on Friday night. After a slow start and a scoreless first quarter, Northville quickly posted hefty numbers when they scored 28 points in 15 minutes before South Lyon could get on the board.

Last week the 'Stangs produced big numbers through the air off the arm of senior quarterback Matt Kreager to beat East's 'big brother' South Lyon. This week was quite the opposite. Northville took advantage of East's youth—the highest-ranking players at the second-year school are sophomores—and got the work done on the ground.

The Mustangs racked up 323 yards between four players with their rushing attack.

Junior running back Kyle Galdes led the way with 145 yards and two touchdowns. He scored the team's first touchdown from seven yards out with 9:55 left in

the second. Galdes added his second with 2:21 left in the third. The 57-yard jaunt gave the Mustangs a 41-6 advantage.

Ryan Mullen and Devon Pearson each had three carries for 61 yards.

Mullen made it a 21-0 game with his two-yard run with 2:49 left in the first half. Pearson let loose a 54-yard breakaway to score the team's last tally with 7:36 left to play for a 48-12 advantage.

Brett Smith added 55 yards on five carries. The majority of his yardage came on a 39-yard scoring run that put Northville up, 28-0, with 8:53 left in the third frame.

"Against South Lyon last week we thought out best chance to beat them was through the air," said Northville Coach Matt Ladach. "This week we thought with felt we could run right at them and use our size and experience to move them around and we did."

The attack wasn't all run-oriented. Kreager and senior tight end Ryan Gerblich connected for the other two Northville scores.

Kreager found Gerblich with 6:57 left in the first half for a 12-yard touchdown to make it a 14-0 game. They connected again with 6:11 left in the third for a 54-yard

touchdown play—and a 34-6 advantage.

East didn't get on the board until there was 7:22 left in the third. The one-yard run to the end zone cut into the Mustang lead, 28-6.

Northville's defense held East the rest of the third and didn't let them score until the 4:11 mark of

the fourth on a 12-yard pass to make it 41-12. South Lyon capped off the scoring with a 16-yard pass play with 3:29 left.

"Defensively we handled the spread well," Ladach said. "We had a little trouble at first but once our guys settled down and got used to it we did well."

Ladach said the positive start

is a plus for the team's confidence.

"We knew we had a good group of hardworking kids and we believed in them, but we didn't know if they believed in themselves and in the team as a whole," he said. "But now we do."

Northville hosts state runner up Stevenson in a homecoming bout at 7 p.m. on Friday.



Northville junior tight end Steven Clayton takes South Lyon East tacklers along for a ride in the Mustangs' 41-18 victory on Friday. Photo by Scott Greb

SPORTS

Romulus volleyball moves up to Mega White

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Romulus Lady Eagles varsity volleyball moved up to the Mega White conference for the first time in school history this season and the team plans to take advantage of it.

Last year the Eagles won the Mega Blue and were offered the chance to move up to the tougher, more competitive White. They took it and are already 1-0 in the new division.

Romulus beat Ypsilanti last Monday in the first contest of the 2008 campaign. The match lasted four games but the Lady Eagles pulled out the win.

The first game resulted in a 26-24 loss but once the players settled down the Eagles dominated Ypsilanti the rest of the way, winning 25-18, 25-16 and 25-14 in the final three games.

"It was just one of those games where you're right there but couldn't get it," said Romulus Coach Harry Hunter. "We'll call it first-game jitters. I think they responded well in the other games."

There's no surprise why the Blue champs are so good so early on in the White.

Hunter returns seven seniors for eight total and three juniors from last year's roster and only lost three players to graduation in June.

The returning seniors include hitters Samantha Bankey at left, Chelsea Hayes on the right and Sarah James in the middle Cheyenne Oakley. The back row includes passers Cheyenne Oakley on the left and Samantha Watson in the middle. Brianna Grove returns to the middle and Marianne Watts is slated as a setter.

Hunter will use senior newcomer Kayla

Torres as a passer.

The returning juniors are Sheila Watts at right back, Ashley Wagle at right front and Sheila Reeves in the middle. Leanne Dawson and Brianna Shreve are back-up players.

The returning players showed what they could do against Ypsilanti.

Grove had 45 attacks with 21 kills. Shreve attacked 26 times with 10 kills and Bankey added seven kills on 20 attacks. Marianne Watts assisted on 38 points. On defense Sheila Watts led with 18 digs. Watson wasn't too far behind with 17 digs. Oakley had 12 in the win.

"I'm looking for my returning middles to hook up a lot more plays," Hunter said. "They play fast and this is probably the fastest offense that I've ever coached. I'm really looking forward to seeing that happen."

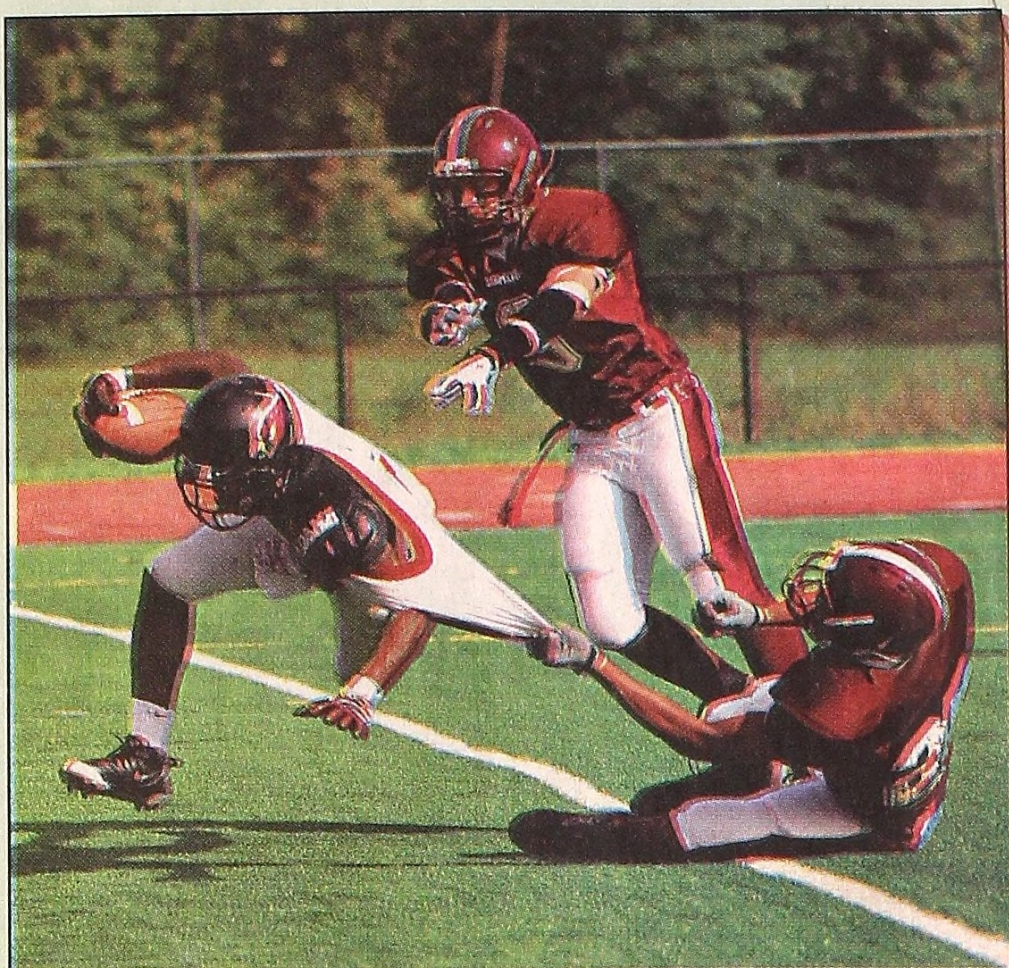
Romulus is off to a good start but have to face teams like Edsel Ford, Allen Park, Woodhaven—a team that moved down from the elite Mega Red—Redford Union and Carlson.

Hunter said he wants to stay competitive in league play and at tournaments. Defense will be key when the Lady Eagles face off against some of the high-powered offenses in the league.

Hunter isn't worried.

"I built this team around the defense," he said. "I think that we have one of the best defenses in the conference. We have the best passers in the Mega White. I say that not knowing a lot about (the other teams) but they are some of the best that I've ever seen."

Romulus hosts its annual varsity tournament at 8:30 am on Saturday. The Lady Eagles start their first match at 8:30 am.



Romulus defenders Jon Hawbaker and Derek Kinney oust Melvindale's return man out the back of the end zone for a safety on Friday. Photo by Jeff Novak

Eagles

FROM PAGE 9

too, with interceptions, fumble recoveries and two safeties—that's huge."

On Romulus's second to last drive, senior receiver Donnavin Searcy hauled in a 3-and-8 pass that would have moved the Eagles into field goal range but he was

ruled out of bounds.

The Eagles got the ball back with 56 seconds left but fell short.

"Our players definitely showed that they have heart," Wittkopp said. "They showed that against Highland Park coming back and driving down the field (to win). And we certainly could have done that today but we just lost a little focus. (Melvindale)

came out prepared for us—they looked like they knew what they were doing. Offensively we didn't get the job done like we should have."

Romulus (2-2) heads to Edsel Ford (3-1) at 7 p.m. on Friday.

"We need to refocus and make sure we're doing our responsibilities," Wittkopp said of preparing for the Thunderbirds.



Romulus' Zach Toilolo (20) and Belleville's Zack Whitmer battle for possession on Friday. Belleville won the game, 2-0. Photo by Ken Garner

Belleville kickers top Romulus

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Belleville Tiger varsity soccer team needed a win on Friday and they got one with a 2-0 victory over the Romulus Eagles.

The Tigers lost two games to Melvindale and Taylor Truman earlier last week and were in need of the win to stay in the hunt for the Mega Blue conference title. Belleville scored two goals in the first half to put the Eagles away.

Junior midfielder Royce Acho netted the first one about 10 minutes into the contest. Sophomore Aaron Meyers notched the assist on the play. Freshman Dan Gernie scored about 20 minutes later.

The Tigers out shot the Eagles 20-3 in the outing. Sophomore goalkeeper Robert VanAsche earned

the shutout.

"I'm glad to earn the win," said Belleville Coach Brent Held. "It was a tough week with two losses and we needed a win."

The win was a nice recovery from the Tigers' bout with Taylor Truman last Wednesday. Truman senior Ryan Lillibridge scored all four Cougar goals—three in the first half—in the shutout.

"Take him out of the game and there's nothing," Held said. "We made some adjustments in the second half and held him to one goal. We'll make the same adjustments when we see them again."

Romulus marked the start of the second half of the season. Belleville defeated the Eagles, 1-0, in the teams' first meeting in August.

This week Belleville had a

rematch with host Redford Union—a team they beat 5-4 the first time—on Monday. They hosted Ypsilanti on Wednesday but the results of both games were unavailable at press time.

"We're looking to cut down on the goals against," Held said of the Redford Union game. "They had two players that did all of the damage. Hopefully we can hold them down this time."

Held also put together an alumni game that will pit his varsity squad against former players. The game will afford the Tigers a break from the serious league play.

"It should be a fun game for us," he said. "I've had about 40 alumni players contact me so far. We're really looking forward to it."

Game time is at 7 p.m. Romulus is at Melvindale on Wednesday.

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SPORTS

Red alert Belleville spikers hope are set to succeed in new division

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Belleville Lady Tiger varsity volleyball squad was the Mega White Champs last season and moved up to the tougher Mega Red division for the 2008 campaign.

So far it hasn't been a bed of roses.

Belleville lost its first two league matches against Monroe and Dearborn last week but played well in the University of Michigan-Dearborn Tournament on Saturday.

In league play they lost to Monroe in four games. The Lady Tigers were down 2-0 with 25-23 and 25-18 losses before bouncing back with a 25-18 win to push a fourth game. Monroe pulled out a 25-16 win to put the match away.

Dearborn beat Belleville in three games but the Tigers were in every one of them. They fell 25-23, 25-22 and 25-23.

"It could have went either way," said

Belleville Coach Sam Villa. "We just couldn't pull it out."

The team faired better in the tournament play. For the second consecutive year Belleville won the Berkley Invitational, beating teams like John Glenn and Northville. Beleville opened the season at the Hartland Tournament on Aug. 23. The Tigers made it through to the gold pool but lost to Birmingham Lahser in the first round of the playoffs, according Villa.

On Saturday, Belleville lost its first match to Canton (25-10, 25-14) but came back to knock off Plymouth Christian Academy and Hamtramck to make it to the gold pool again as the eighth and final seed. They lost to number-one seated Novi in three games.

The Tigers lost a close first one, 27-25, and won the second, 25-22, to force the third game. Belleville succumbed to the Wildcats, 15-13, in the tiebreaker.

"Novi is one of the top teams," Villa said.

I think we're pulling together as a team. We're going to win some games soon.

Belleville Coach Sam Villa

secured her a scholarship to Grand Valley State University.

Megan Gohl is the team's libero; Rachel Morrissey is an outside hitter; Stacey Stoker is a starting middle; Nicole Rodgers is a right side hitter. Shana Tooley and Kelsey Schuckel are both defensive specialists. Daysza Lewis adds depth as a versatile all-around player and Samantha Kole is a back-up players.

Although stacked with experience and skill Coach Villa is a little disappointed with the 0-2 Mega Red start.

"I thought that we would be winning right now," he said. "If we could have beat Monroe it would have been different for us. I think we're pulling together as a team. We're going to win some games soon."

Belleville was at Roosevelt on Monday and hosted Southgate on Wednesday but the results were unavailable at press time.

Next week the Tigers are at Garden City at 7 p.m. on Monday.

Tigers fall to Titans, 44-6

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Belleville Tigers struggled early again last week, leading to a 44-6 Mega Red loss to the Titans at Southgate on Friday.

Southgate earned two points on a safety when Belleville fumbled the opening kickoff into the end zone. Southgate made it a 9-0 game when they raced down the field on the ensuing drive.

"It's hard to overcome mistakes like that early in the game," said Belleville Coach Bob LaPointe.

The loss dropped Belleville to 0-4 on the season and is the Tigers' 15th straight loss. They went 0-9 last season and lost the final two games in 2006. Belleville showed signs of life against Flint Carman-Ainsworth, Dearborn and Fordson this year, but they have little to show for it.

After Belleville's opening kickoff blunder, the Titans continued to dominate and never let up until the fourth quarter.

Belleville scored its lone touchdown in the

final stanza on a nine-yard pass from senior quarterback Lorenzo Reese to senior tight end Kaare Cigan.

Reese was 4-for-11 for 29 yards with the score and an interception. They added 71 yards on the ground. Junior halfback Keenan Hayes led the rush attack with 73 yards on eight carries. Junior full back Antonio LaBoda was good for 60 yards on 14 carries.

Junior outside linebacker Alantae Phelan, senior defensive end Josh Robakiewicz and Cigan—as a defensive end—carried the workload on defense, according to LaPointe.

"They are the strength of the defense," he said. "We had a few starters out, which didn't help. Not that the back-ups didn't play well; it's just hard to replace starters."

Belleville heads back to the drawing board this week for a match up with visiting Monroe at 7 p.m. on Friday.

"I don't think their offense has changed much from last year," LaPointe said of the Trojans. "They have a new coach so their personality has changed. We'll have to review the game film to see what's going on there."

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

Treasurer Budd called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Clair, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: Supervisor King. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Public Safety Director Champagne, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of ten (10).

Treasurer Budd requested a moment of silence for Sam Villa, Lee Jordan and Chesley Odom community leaders who recently.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to have Clerk Payne chair the remainder of the Board Meeting. Carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Clair moved, Jahr seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Hart moved, Rochowiak seconded to open the public hearing to receive public comments on request for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Statewide Boring & Machine, Inc. Carried.

Clerk Payne opened the public hearing and went to Executive Assistant Ireland for an explanation. Executive Assistant Ireland stated the Township received the application for tax abatement from Statewide Boring & Machine requesting tax abatement in an existing Industrial Development District #8, located on Haggerty Road, on real property for a foundation pad in the amount of \$30,000 and on personal property equipment in the amount of \$320,000 for a total of \$350,000 for the project. The equipment is for new technology to machine parts for pharmaceutical and aerospace industries. Statewide Boring & Machine have an existing 2006 Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for equipment and is in compliance with the yearly reporting requirements as outlined in the Agreements currently in effect and currently has no delinquent taxes. Van Buren Township has received no objections from any other taxing jurisdictions. Under the Township's Board approved Tax Abatement Policy, Statewide Boring & Machine qualifies for six year tax abatement. Statewide Boring & Machine anticipates adding an additional two new jobs. Based on the existing tax rate, over the six (6) year period with out the abatement, Statewide Boring & Machine would pay approximately \$4,423 in Township taxes, and with the abatement they will pay approximately \$2,211.

Board members made the following comments: Trustee Hart ask the applicant what type of parts are manufactured and what companies they do work for. The applicant stated most of the companies are from out of state and they have done work for Pfizer a research-based pharmaceutical company, a machine that will build the nose of an airplane for an aerospace company and a windmill company. Trustee Rochowiak inquired how many employees were added for the first abatement in 2006. The applicant stated to run the equipment two skilled labor positions have been hired for each of the two shifts per day with an additional driver and maintenance staff. Clerk Payne reiterated this abatement is for six years with the investment in the amount of \$350,000. Trustee Clair thanked the company for being able to assess and determine the need to expand in the township.

There were no comments from the audience.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Budd moved, Clair seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

MINUTES: Budd moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of September 2, 2008 as presented. Carried.

Clair moved, Hart seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2008 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Hart moved, Jahr seconded to adopt Resolution 2008-40 to authorize an Industrial Exemption for Statewide Boring & Machine, Inc. and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the Tax Abatement Agreement. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Budd moved, Jahr seconded to approve the September 16, 2008 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: Clerk Payne ordered the July 2008 Budgetary Report received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Treasurer Budd reminded the audience the deadline for tax bills was extended to Tuesday, September 30th.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): A resident stated the Van Buren Township area will host a Little League Softball Tournament. He further commented on an incident that occurred in the Ormond Drive neighborhood area early on Saturday morning and thanked Director Champagne and the Police Department for handling the situation and encourages the Township to work with Van Buren Public Schools along with the other tri-communities. Director Champagne reviewed the staffing increases and how the Township is working on deterring crime.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Jahr moved, Hart seconded to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Supervisor

Publish: September 25, 2008

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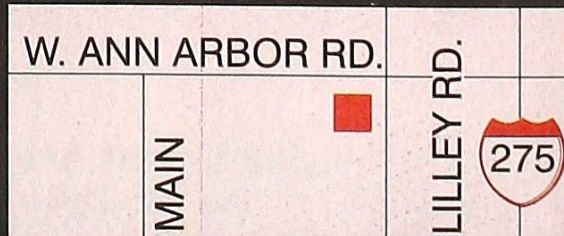
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